

Claims

1. A method for generating a displayable menu, the menu comprising separately rendered menu items (BG81,..., BG86'), wherein menu items include selectable menu buttons (BG81,...,BG86), **characterized in** that
- at least one group of menu items is defined, the group comprising one or more menu items (BG83, BG83') and having associated a defined area on the display;
 - a menu item may belong to not more than one of said groups;
 - a state is assigned to each menu item, the state being "enabled" or "disabled", wherein only an enabled menu item (BG83) may be displayed, and wherein not more than one menu item within a group may be enabled simultaneously.
2. Method according to claim 1, wherein a menu item belonging to a group and being displayed is displayed within the area associated with said group, and wherein the areas of different groups may not overlap and no display pixel may belong to more than one group.
3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the area associated with a group comprises a plurality of partial areas not connected with each other.
4. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the area associated with a group consists of one rectangular area, and wherein visible menu items that belong to said group cover only a part of said area, or cover

said area completely.

- 5 5. Method according to the previous claim, wherein all visible menu items within a group cover the same part of said rectangular area.
- 10 6. Method according to any of the previous claims, wherein a menu item has an associated command, the command being executed upon activation of the menu item, and the command comprising enabling or disabling of another menu item.
- 15 7. Method according to any of the previous claims, wherein the menu relates to audio-visual content of a removable storage medium, and the menu data are stored on said medium.
- 20 8. Apparatus for processing a data stream, the data stream comprising menu data for a displayable menu, the menu comprising separately rendered menu items (BG81,...,BG86') including selectable menu buttons (BG81,...,BG86), the decoder being **characterized in** that it includes
- 25 - means for defining at least one group of menu items, the group comprising one or more menu items (BG83,BG83'), wherein a menu item may not belong to more than one group;
 - 30 - means for associating to said group a defined area on the display;
 - means for assigning a state to each of said menu items belonging to a group, the state being "enabled" or "disabled", wherein only an enabled menu item may be displayed, and wherein not more

than one menu item within a group may be enabled simultaneously.

5 9. Apparatus according to the previous claim, wherein a menu item belonging to a group and being displayed is displayed within the area associated with said group, and wherein the areas of different groups may not overlap and no display pixel may belong to more than one group.

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10. Apparatus according to claim 8 or 9, wherein a menu item has an associated command, the command being executed upon activation of the menu item, and the command comprising enabling or disabling of
15 another menu item.

11. Apparatus according to any of claims 8-10, wherein the menu relates to an audio-visual multimedia presentation being stored on a removable
20 storage medium, and wherein the data stream is also stored on said medium.

12. Removable data storage medium containing audio-visual data and a menu data structure for generating
25 a displayable menu relating to the audio-visual data, the menu comprising menu items (BG81,..., BG86') including selectable menu buttons (BG81,..., BG86), the menu data structure being **characterized in** that

- at least one group of menu items is defined, the
30 group comprising one or more menu items and having associated a defined area on the display;
- a menu item may belong to not more than one of said groups;

- a state is assigned to each menu item, the state being "enabled" or "disabled", wherein only an enabled menu item may be displayed, and wherein not more than one menu item within a group may be enabled simultaneously.